

# THE STATE OF THE REGION 2003

MEASURING PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

# THE STATE OF THE REGION 2003

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# PREFACE

**The State of the Region 2003** includes an assessment of how Southern California has been performing with respect to key regional issues. The Report tracks the region's progress in achieving the goals in the *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide*. It also compares the performance of our region with other large metropolitan regions. The report is intended to assist policy makers, business and community leaders in developing strategies to improve our communities.

Since 1998, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has prepared the annual State of the Region Report. SCAG is the largest regional planning organization in the nation. SCAG works with local governments, public agencies and many other partners to address regional issues critical for our common future. The SCAG region, also referred to as Southern California in this report, includes six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura) and 187 cities. The region includes more than 17 million residents, which is larger than the State of Florida that is the 4th largest state in the nation.

Preparation for the 2003 Report was guided by SCAG's Benchmarks Task Force, consisting of community leaders and regional issue experts in Southern California. It includes representatives from, among others, local elected officials, academia, business, education and environmental organizations.

Finally, **The State of the Region 2003** builds on the assessment of how Southern California performed during the 1990s, the focus of the 2002 Report. While this 2003 Report was prepared as a stand-alone document, readers will find it beneficial to also refer to the 2002 Report for the assessment of the last decade. Both reports have been posted on the SCAG website at [www.scag.ca.gov/publications/](http://www.scag.ca.gov/publications/).



